

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-14, 17-19 are in the application; claims 11, 15, 16, 20, and 21 are cancelled.

Prior Art Discussion

DE 196 29 930 discloses in Figure 10 that the strip of sheet metal 20 is separated in the longitudinal direction into two strips 34 and 36 by means of cutting tool 24. Figure 10 also shows that the strip 34 is cut into laminations 9 transversely to the longitudinal direction. In view of this reference, claim 1 on file is obvious.

Claim 1 therefore has been amended by introducing the feature of claims 15 and 16, so that a deburring step of the laminations now follows the step of joining. According to the invention, in the step of deburring, the tool parts of the joining tool are moved toward the laminations such that the burrs are pressed away by plastic deformation.

Such a deburring step of the laminations is not disclosed in DE 19629 930.

During the prosecution of the present application the examiner has cited US 4,025,379 as showing a deburring step. This deburring step is carried out on the final shape of the product (see col. 5, lines 51-56): The extruded laminate, comprised of alternating layers 10, 12 that have been co-reduced and diffusion bonded in the prior extrusion step, is shaped to its ultimate product form and the resulting final shape is then deburred or etched to remove metal that might be smeared across the edges. However, the feature that the tool parts of the joining tool are moved toward the laminations such that the burrs are pressed away by plastic deformation is not disclosed or suggested.

Reference JP 11045815 discloses stamping of laminations from stacked sheet metal strips secured in jigs 13, 14 by means of a cutter 16 thus producing a stack of laminations that are subsequently joined in a cylinder 38 or 44 to a solid core. This reference is silent as regards deburring.

Claim 1 as amended is therefore believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned

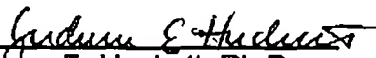
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would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on December 3, 2003,


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